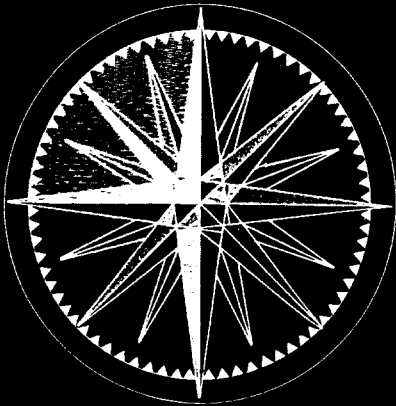


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24 June 1966

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# WEEKLY SUMMARY

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DATE: APR 2001

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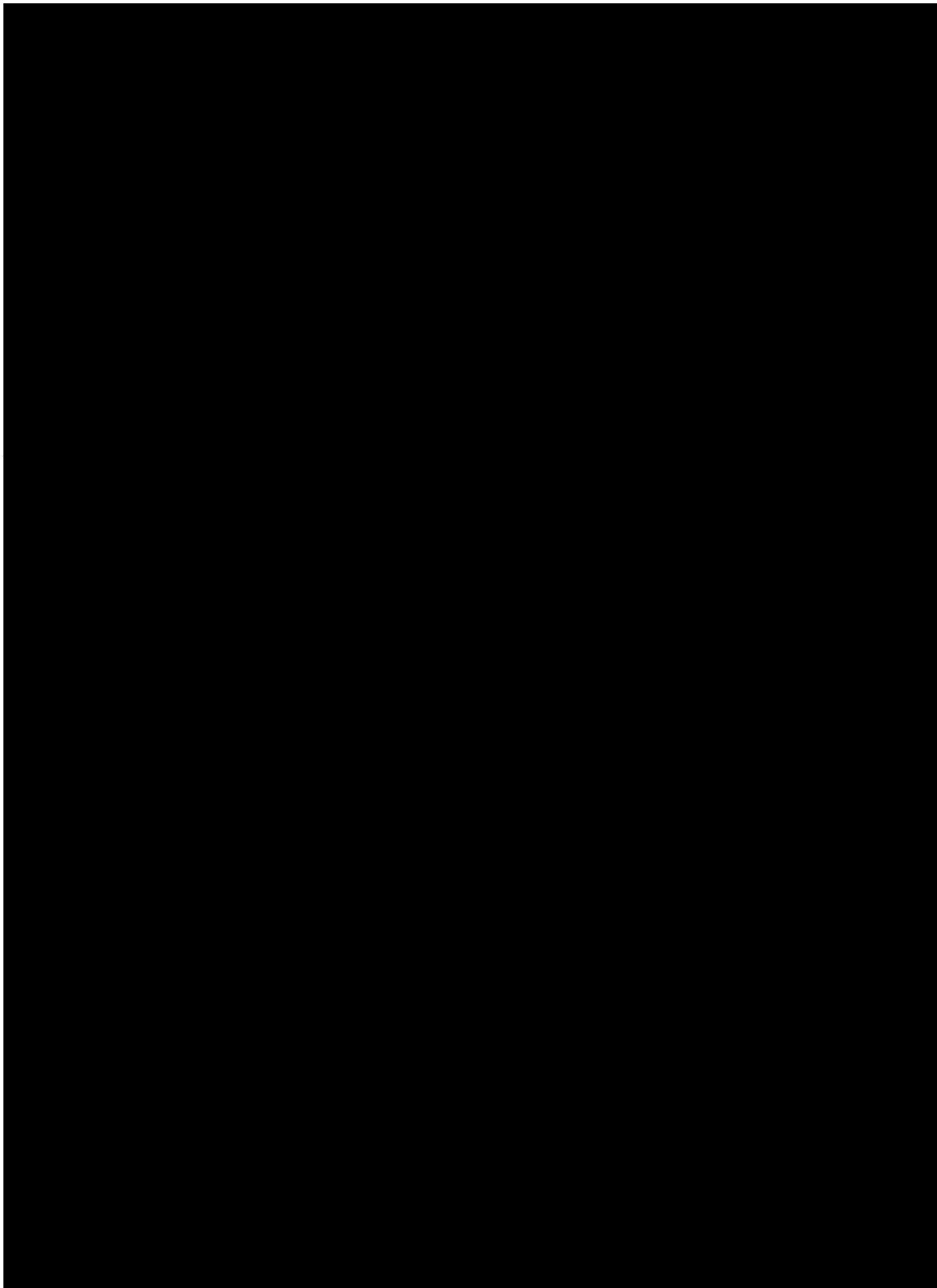
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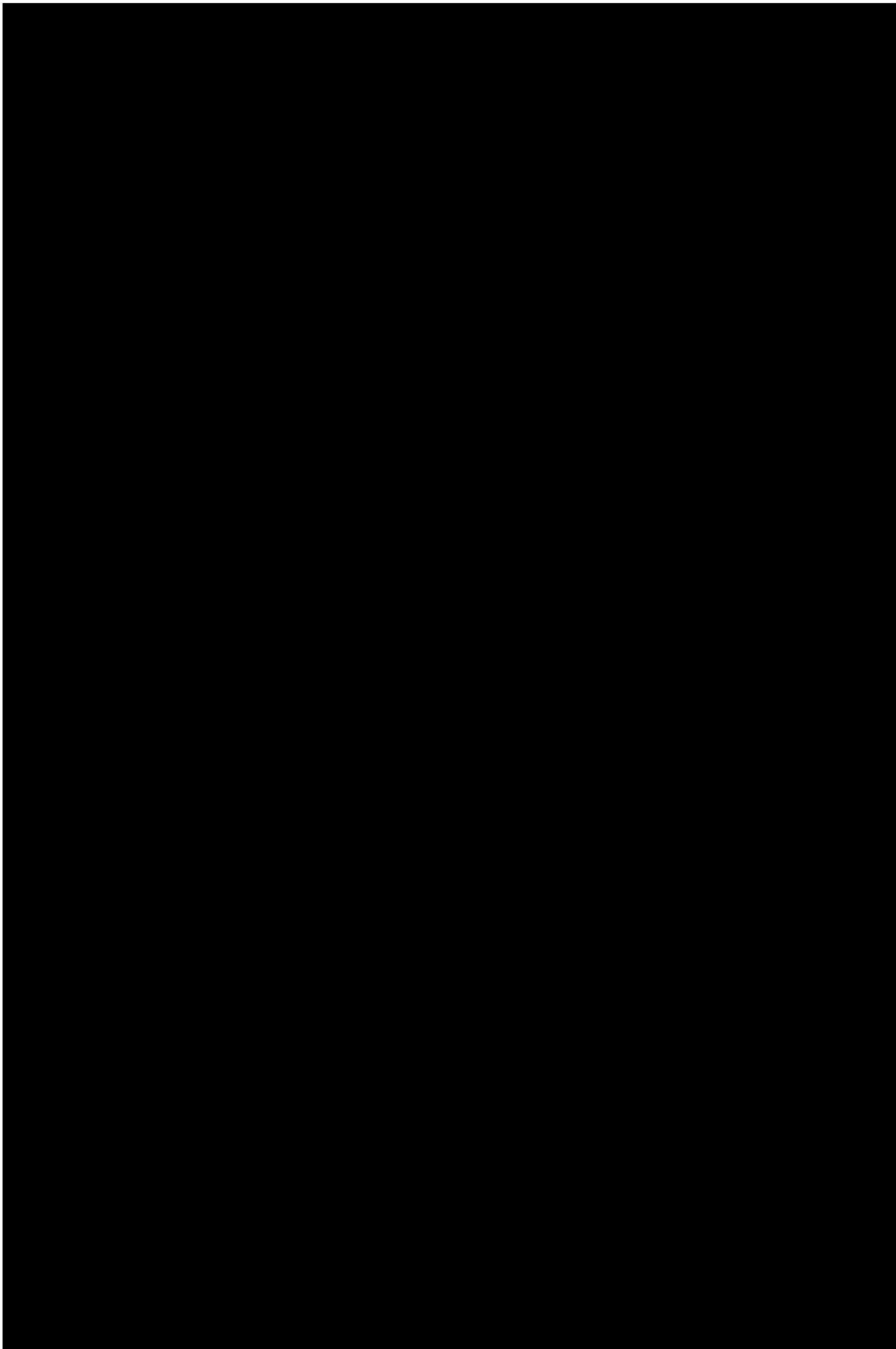
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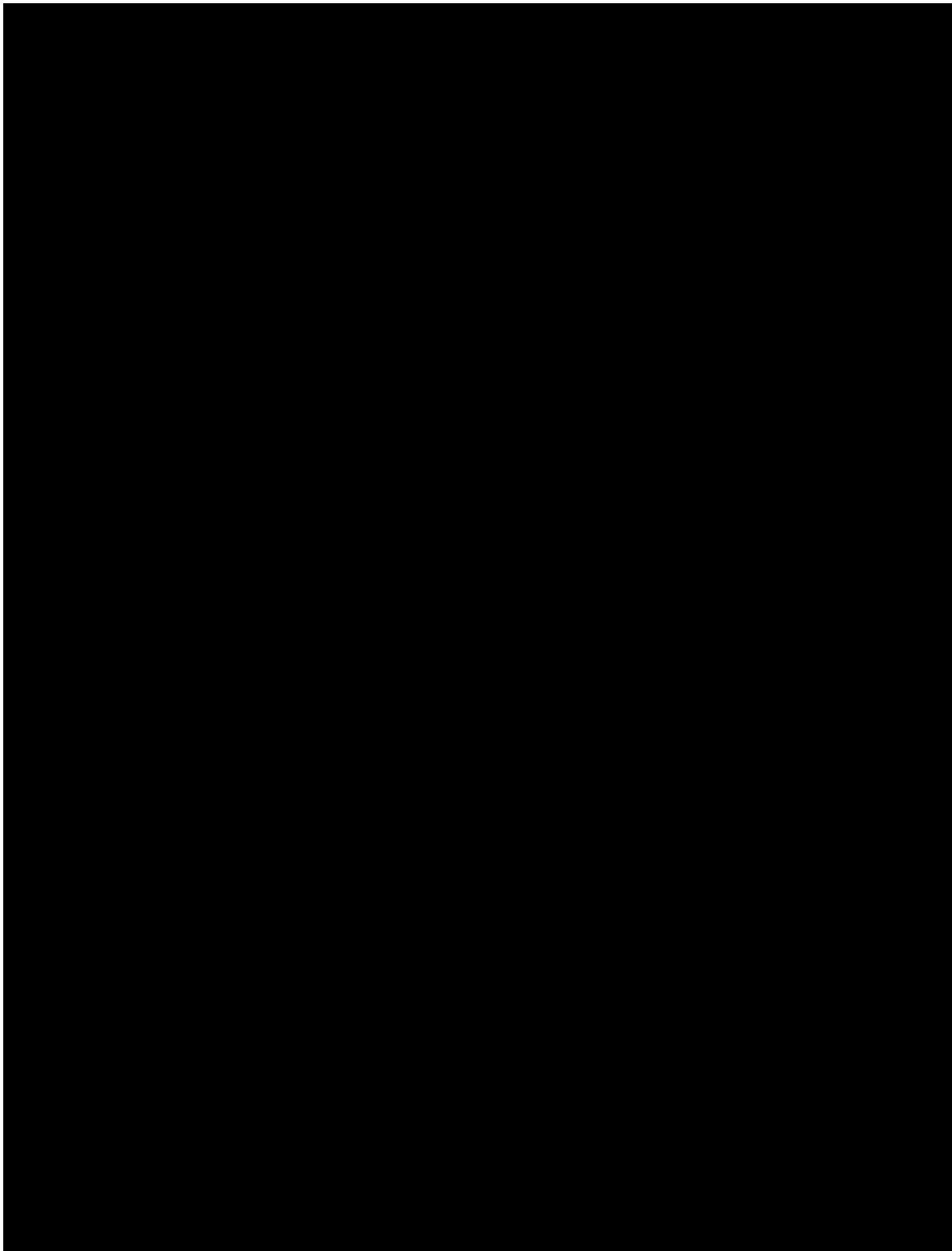
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RECONSTRUCTION CONTINUING IN GHANA

21

Four months since Nkrumah was toppled, the moderate military regime is functioning reasonably effectively, but is under increasing pressure to return to popular rule.

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## RECONSTRUCTION CONTINUING IN GHANA

Ghana's moderate military regime, in power since the coup which toppled Nkrumah last February, is functioning reasonably effectively and has retained broad popular support. It is under increasing pressure from former opposition politicians, however, to speed a return to civilian rule.

So far General Ankrah and the seven other army and police officers of the ruling National Liberation Council (NLC) seem to be cooperating fairly well. Formal probes into official corruption under the old regime are continuing, but the NLC has shown itself anxious to stem vindictiveness against former Nkrumah supporters. In the face of strong disapproval from Nkrumah's old political foes, the new leaders have begun to release from detention persons found not to be criminally liable for their past actions. Former foreign ministers Quaison-Sackey and Botsio were both recently freed.

The struggle to rehabilitate Ghana's nearly bankrupt economy has led to new cuts in spending in various areas and an initial group of nonpaying state enterprises is being transferred to private management. The new regime has been notably successful in obtaining a \$37-million stabilization credit from the International Monetary Fund and in winning at least a three-month respite on heavy foreign debt payments. The new budget coming out next month will probably include further austerity measures.

Despite the NLC's continuing ban on political parties and ac-

tivity, a good deal of politicking is going on, especially by former top opposition leader K. A. Busia. His public "lectures" around the country clearly have been designed to build grass-roots support for himself and bring pressure on the NLC to give former opposition politicians a voice in the new government. Ankrah, in a recent speech, rebuked such activity, but at the same time announced formation of an advisory political committee and promised early establishment of a constitutional review commission --two of Busia's recommendations. Busia, who is included among the 18 prominent citizens tapped the political committee, can be expected to press his drive for a return to civilian rule much sooner than the "two or three" years still cited by the NLC.

Ghana's new rulers continue to suspect the USSR of helping Nkrumah to prepare a comeback attempt from his refuge in Guinea. For economic reasons, however, they have extended Soviet deliveries of crude oil and reportedly have tentatively sought the return of some of the Soviet fishing experts expelled after the coup. Albania and North Vietnam have both closed their Accra embassies and the North Koreans apparently will depart soon. The East German trade mission is also gone--as is Ghana's from East Berlin--amid hard feelings generated by a wrangle over an East German espionage expert detained by the NLC for almost three months.

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